



Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve 2004 Resource Projects

Kipuka Survey – The objectives of this project are to 1) record baseline resource conditions in a representative sample of kipukas, 2) document the presence and distribution of noxious weeds within kipukas, and 3) collect vegetation condition data in from kipukas within the Preserve. This two year project will survey the vegetative and soil characteristics of roughly 90 of the 500 kipukas identified within the Preserve. The sample of kipukas surveyed will be based upon representative characteristics including size, distance to the edge of the lava field and elevation.

The project is being conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit and Idaho State University's Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Nancy Huntley is the principle investigator and Paige Wolken is the NPS project leader.

Archeological Overview and Assessment - The main objectives of this project are to provide land managers with GIS files of the identified archaeological resources compatible with other Preserve resource overlays; completing an overview report that combines all available archaeological information documented within the Preserve boundaries and how those resources fit within the regional and temporal contexts; inputting site information into NPS archaeology data management system.

This one year project is being conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Pacific Northwest Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit and the University of Oregon. Dr. Suzann Henrickson is the principle investigator and Kristie Haertel (NPS archeologist, Seattle) is the NPS project leader. The second year of this project (FY05) will include field inventories of high priority areas identified in the assessment and overview report.

Assessment of Habitat for Sagebrush-steppe Dependent Birds – The objectives of this one year project are to 1) survey a representative sample of shrub-steppe habitats within the Preserve for shrub-steppe birds with an emphasis on Species at Risk, and 2) obtain quantitative estimates of habitat attributes at the sample locations.

This one year project is being conducted through a cooperative agreement with the Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit and Boise State University. Gregory Kaltenecker, Director of the Idaho Bird Observatory is the principle investigator and John Apel is the NPS project leader.

Invasive Weed Management Plan and Environmental Assessment – Scoping will begin on the issues and alternatives to be considered in development of a plan to manage invasive weeds within the NPS monument and preserve. Potential interested parties include county weed departments, Idaho DOT, F&G, & DOA, BLM, adjacent private land owners and environmental groups. Paige Wolken is the project leader.

Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management Plan and Environmental Assessment – Begin scoping issues and alternatives to be considered in development of a plan to respond to request to

treat grasshoppers within the Preserve when outbreaks threaten private agricultural lands. Potential interested parties include county commissioners, Idaho F&G & DOA, USDA-APHIS/PPQ, BLM, adjacent private land owners and environmental groups.

Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) – 2004 will mark the first full year of field operations for the Craters-based crew of the NPS Northern Rocky Mountain EPMT. The 3-person crew provides invasive weed control support to Craters of the Moon and five other NPS units in Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah. Weed surveys and treatments in the Raven's Eye WSA and Wood Road Kipuka area of the Wapi lava field have been identified as high priority needs within the Preserve.

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) – Continuing to be an active member of 4 neighboring CWMAs (Lost Rivers, Blaine, Power and Minidoka). The focus of all CWMAs is to coordinate private, state and federal resources to more effectively control and prevent noxious weeds. Several projects are proposed for the Lost Rivers and Blaine CWMAs that involve the NPS: 1) Year 2 of coordinated efforts to control knapweed populations along a 27 mile section of Highway 93/20/26 that runs along and through Craters of the Moon (involves NPS, BLM, ITD, Blaine Co., Butte Co. and 3 private landowners ; 2) Assist with Fish Creek watershed scotch thistle control 3) War on Weeds (WOW) – education, training and experience for high school teams as they survey for and map new weed infestations; 4) Develop a traveling educational display on Noxious Weeds.

Seed Collection for Revegetation/Restoration Projects – Native plant seed will be collected for revegetation/restoration projects associated with scheduled maintenance activities in the next two years. Seeds will be collected by NPS employees, SCA interns, and volunteers. The Natural Resource Conservation Service's Plant Materials Center in Aberdeen, ID will clean and test the seed. Some seeds will be retained by NRCS to produce containerized plants; others will be stored for direct seeding on disturbed areas within the main visitor use area. Paige Wolken is the project leader.

